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Last-minute gifts, in your own backyard. 16 & 18



City Council passes BYOB bill. 6

Prep for 'Star Wars' with these classic films. 14

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The rapper opens up about battling addiction — and Trump. 22

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ISLAMIC STATE FIGHT

1 U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Iraqi leaders on Wednesday discussed the idea of greater U.S. contributions to the fight against Islamic State, including an offer of attack helicopters to help retake territory from the insurgent group. Carter said Washington is willing to do more to support Iraqi security forces as they battle Islamic State. **REUTERS**



SAN BERNARDINO VISIT

2 President Barack Obama will travel on Friday to San Bernardino, California, the site of the Dec. 2 shooting by a radicalized Muslim couple that claimed 14 lives, the White House said on Wednesday. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama will meet with families of the victims while in San Bernardino. The FBI believes U.S.-born Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his Pakistani-born wife Tashfeen Malik, 29, had been radicalized for some time before opening fire on Farook's co-workers. **REUTERS**

WILMORE TO HOST EVENT

3 The White House Correspondents' Association said Comedy Central late-night host Larry Wilmore would headline its annual April dinner, known for its playful ribbing of politicians and the news media. The host of "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore" will be the main performer, the association said. **REUTERS**



OUTGOING CITY COUNCILORS

7 Outgoing Boston City Councilors Stephen Murphy (right) and Charles Yancey (left), are honored by the Boston City Council during the last meeting of the year on Wednesday.

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



MAIN PHOTOS BY NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

GOOGLE DRIVERLESS CARS

4 Google plans to make its self-driving cars unit, which will offer rides for hire, a stand-alone business under its parent company, Alphabet Inc., next year, Bloomberg reported. The service could be launched in San Francisco and Austin, Texas, locations, where it has tested the cars extensively, Bloomberg said, citing a person briefed on the strategy. **REUTERS**



FED HIKE RATES

5 The Federal Reserve hiked interest rates for the first time in nearly a decade on Wednesday, signaling faith that the U.S. economy had largely overcome the wounds of the 2007-2009 financial crisis. The U.S. central bank's policy-setting committee raised the range of its benchmark interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to between 0.25 percent and 0.50 percent, ending a lengthy debate about whether the economy was strong enough to withstand higher borrowing costs. **REUTERS**

ARREST IN DORCHESTER

6 A Dorchester man was arrested Monday for allegedly threatening bystanders with a large metal grilling fork outside the Boston Transitional Clubhouse in Roxbury. Benjamin Coffey, 35, now faces charges of assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon and being a disorderly person, Boston.com reported. **JASON MUCKOLLS**



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A memorial for Wellington Ruiz on Aquadilla Street. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

South End gun violence 'emergency'

Locals are calling for bicycle police and security cameras in response to three shootings in one week.

SPENCER BUELL
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A brief rash of gun violence has neighbors in the South End seeking answers and solutions to what one local organizer called a rise in "seediness."

More than 100 people were expected to turn out at an "emergency" meeting at United South End Settlements center Wednesday night, which came on the heels of a seven-day stretch that saw three shootings, one of them fatal, organizers said.

"People are feeling surprised I think, because generally the South End

is not a 'Gunfight at the O.K. Corral' type of neighborhood," said Steve Fox, who heads a consortium of local groups called the South End Forum. "This is kind of a clarion call to the neighborhood: Maybe there is something out there we need to look at to prevent this from happening again."

The most recent shooting happened on Dec. 9, when 25-year-old Wellington Ruiz of Dorchester was found suffering from gunshot wounds in a car in the area of 17B Aguadilla Street. He later died, ac-

"I'm used to it. It just seems like it got worse, I don't know."

Guice

cording to a police report. Ruiz had previously been part of a USES workforce readiness program, according to Nikki Stewart, the organization's development director.

South End resident Tacara Guice, 28, said she is well aware of violence happening in her neighborhood.

"I'm used to it," Guice told Metro, standing next to a memorial for Ruiz, adding that she hears gunshots once every few weeks. "It just seems like it got worse, I don't know."

Guice said the area needs a bigger police presence, and said, "I think everybody should come together as one."

In a message earlier this week, USES CEO Maicharia Weir Lytle said the shootings "are not random; rather, they are part of larger systemic issues

USES and our nonprofit partners are trying to address."

"While we have concerns about our own safety and that of our families, we need to also remem-



Nikki Stewart of the United South End Settlements. Below, the sun sets in the South End.

ber to show compassion toward those involved," Lytle wrote.

Expected at the meeting were neighborhood associations and other groups as well as local elected officials, law enforcement and Boston Police Commissioner William Evans. An invitation had also been extended to Mayor Marty Walsh, but Walsh's office told Metro he was not able to attend.

"We are very concerned with the issues and we are looking for collective solutions to the problem," said Vanessa Calderon-Rosado, CEO of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, a South End non-profit.

Fox told Metro he and others planned to call for investments like added security cameras and more regular bicycle police presence in certain hot spots where there has been an



"increase in the seediness factor" — parks and street corners where he said there has been an uptick in drug use, a growing unsheltered homeless population and an increase in the number of discarded needles left on the ground.

Community members also want updates on whether the shootings are connected to gang activity, and whether the trio

of alleged attacks might be related, Fox said.

But police and surveillance are only part of the solution, he said, adding that youth outreach, shelters and other programs need to be priorities, and may need more funding.

"Shelters are being maxed out," Fox said. "The resources of the community are being stretched beyond breaking."

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Boston City Council approves BYOB for local restaurants

The proposal would lift the ban on bringing your own beer and wine while dining out.



SPENCER BUELL
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Boston's City Council voted Wednesday in favor of letting diners BYOB at some small restaurants in the city, according to UniversalHub.

Next, the city's licensing board is tasked with setting specific regulations.

Supporters said the change would be a boon for the underdogs in Boston's booming dining-out scene: tiny restaurants in outlying neighborhoods without the capital or fridge



You can now bring your own in Boston. FLICKR

space to buy pricey liquor licenses and stock up on alcohol.

"We're looking to bring some of the vitality of our awesome restaurant scene into every neighborhood in Boston

and do it in a way that puts public safety front and center," Councilor Michelle Wu, who co-sponsoring the ordinance along with her colleague Stephen Murphy, said at a meeting

earlier this month.

The ordinance would allow eateries to get permits to offer BYOB only if they do not already have a liquor license, if they have a wait staff (so no lunch counters or fast-

food joints) and are small (no more than 30 seats). It would also require that the restaurants buy liability insurance and that servers take alcohol training courses.

Neighborhoods in city core — for example the North End and Beacon Hill — would not be eligible.

Wu said at a previous meeting she anticipated permits would cost around \$300. That's far shy of the going rate for alcohol licenses, which start at \$3,000 and can fetch as much as \$400,000 on a competitive open market.

At least one Boston restaurant lawyer told Metro this month he was opposed to the idea and called on the city to licensing the way it is.

"Allowing this sort

of activity to compete against people who have purchased their licenses seems to be an erosion of a well-set-up and well-functioning regulatory scheme," said John Connell, who has represented restaurants, alcohol producers and distributors.

City Councilor Ayan Pressley, meanwhile, argued instead for more liquor licenses in the city for outlying neighborhoods, without needing the blessing of the Legislature. She led the charge last year that led to 60 licenses being earmarked for seven neighborhoods, among them Mattapan and Hyde Park.

Pressley voted in favor of the BYOB proposal at Wednesday's meeting, UniversalHub reported.

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Metro Magic

Please donate to the Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive during the 2015 holiday season.

In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Tony's Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor-in-chief. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive. We are now asking readers to contribute what they can to Tony's Metro Magic.

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to www.metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic logo. From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's system. **METRO**

Hire a human Elf on the Shelf to spice up your party and creep out guests

A Craigslist ad claims you can rent a human "Elf on the Shelf" for a mere \$100 an hour for your holiday party.



MATT LEE
@MetroBOS
matthew.lee@metro.us

Remember that old campfire story about the babysitter and the creepy clown statue that's actually a murderer pretending to be a clown statue?

Well, the real-life version of that now exists in the form of a Boston man, who for \$100 an hour will pretend to be an Elf on the Shelf doll for your next holiday party.

"For \$100/hour I will come to your holiday party dressed as the Elf on the Shelf and sit in



Human Elf on the Shelf CRAIGSLIST

any location you assign me while I stare emptily at your guests for the du-

ration of the event," the man wrote in a Craigslist post.

"I will come to your holiday party dressed as the Elf on the Shelf and sit in any location you assign me while I stare emptily at your guests for the duration of the event."

Craigslist ad

According to the ad, though he may specialize in holiday parties, he also offers "contracted private investigation and babysitting services."

Time's running out to hire him as your own real-life creepy Elf on the Shelf.

He claims that his services have been in high demand as of late. So much so that he "now [requires] at least 48 hours notice in advance of any bookings."

A quick reverse image search of the photo proves that this image is not an original and has circulated around the Web since as early as 2012.

However, Metro reached out to the Craigslist poster in the hopes that he used the photo in lieu of his own image.

Our attempts at making contact with the would-be elf were unsuccessful as of Wednesday evening.

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Baltimore on edge after hung jury in policeman's manslaughter trial

Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Barry Williams said an administrative judge would schedule a new trial as early as Thursday.

A mistrial was declared on Wednesday in the case of a Baltimore police officer charged in the death of Freddie Gray, a black man whose killing while in custody sparked riots in April, and the city's mayor urged calm.

The judge dismissed the jury in the involuntary manslaughter trial of Officer William Porter — the first of six officers to be tried in Gray's death — after 16 hours of deliberations during which the jurors were unable to reach a verdict on any of

the charges against the policeman.

Gray's death triggered rioting in the majority-black city of 620,000 people, and intensified a U.S. debate on police treatment of minorities.

On Wednesday, scores of protesters marched through downtown Baltimore following the ruling, chanting "we have nothing to lose but our chains" and "the whole damn system is guilty as Hell." Uniformed police officers took up positions throughout the city, including by the courthouse and police headquarters, and at least two demonstrators were arrested.

Gray's family and officials, including Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, called for calm, eager to avoid a replay of the unrest that



A protester yells at members of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Department in front of the Baltimore City Circuit Courthouse East, after a mistrial was declared in the trial of William Porter on Wednesday in Baltimore, Maryland. GETTY IMAGES

followed Gray's death.

"We ask the public to remain calm and patient," said Gray's stepfather, Richard Shipley. "We are confident there

will be another trial with a different jury. We are calm; you should be calm too."

Rawlings-Blake, who is black, said, "Our reac-

tion needs to be one of respect for our neighborhoods. In the case of any disturbance in the city we are prepared to respond."

Porter, 26, was charged in Gray's death from a broken neck suffered while the 25-year-old man was transported in the back of a police van.

The jury of five men and seven women had said on Tuesday that it was deadlocked, but Williams had told them to keep trying to reach a verdict.

Porter, who, like Gray, is black, was charged for having put Gray in the back of the van without seat-belted him and with being too slow to pass on his request for medical assistance.

The officer's attorneys had argued that Porter may have been unaware of department policy mandating that detainees be seat-belted, which was put into place shortly before Gray's arrest. REUTERS

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Tashfeen Malik and Syed Farook are pictured passing through Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in July 27, 2014. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION HANDOUT

No evidence attackers were part of terrorist cell, says FBI head

There is no evidence a married couple who killed 14 people in California this month were part of a terrorist cell, the head of the FBI said, confirming that investigators believe the pair were inspired but not directed by Islamic State.

The Islamist militant group has "revolutionized" terrorism by seeking to inspire such small-scale attacks, FBI Director James Comey said, noting the group uses social media, encrypted communications and slickly produced propaganda to recruit followers around the world.

"Your parents' al Qaeda was a very different model than the threat we face today," Comey told a counterterrorism conference in New York.

However, he said that while the perpetrators of the Dec. 2 shootings in San Bernardino, California — Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and Tashfeen Malik, 29 — had expressed support for "jihad and martyrdom" in private communications as early as 2013, they never did so publicly on social media.

He also said authorities believe Mohammed Abdulazez, the suspect in July's fatal shooting of four U.S. Marines and a Navy sailor in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was radicalized by militant propaganda.

"To my mind, there's no doubt that the Chatta-

"Twitter works as a way to sell books, as a way to promote movies and it works as a way to crowdfund terrorism — to sell murder."

Comey

nooga killer was inspired and motivated by foreign terrorist organization propaganda," he said, but did not specify any particular group.

Comey said the Federal Bureau of Investigation currently has "hundreds" of investigations in all 50 U.S. states involving potential Islamic State-inspired plots.

Islamic State controls wide swaths of Iraq and Syria, where it seeks to carve out a caliphate. It claimed responsibility for attacks in Paris on Nov. 13 that killed 130 people.

The group has a three-pronged strategy, Comey said: recruit fighters to join it in the Middle East, inspire individuals in other countries to carry out attacks and send out trained operatives to commit violence in Europe and the U.S. **REUTERS**

BRIEF

Homeland Security chief says social media used in immigration vetting

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said on Wednesday that his department has been consulting social media in reviews of immigration applications since early this year, hitting back at criticism that U.S. authorities are not doing enough to weed out potential security threats.

The Department of Homeland Security has been criticized over

reports it did not routinely consult social media during the vetting process for visa applications.

Questions arose after it came to light that one of the shooters in the Dec. 2 killings of 14 people in San Bernardino, California, Tashfeen Malik, entered the United States on a K-1 or "fiancée" visa. The Los Angeles Times has reported she had pledged her support to Islamic jihad in a private Facebook post.

Johnson said his department began consulting social media early this year before granting certain immigration benefits but did not specify which ones.

"We had policies in place regarding consulting social media which in my judgment, particularly in this current environment, were too restrictive," Johnson told reporters at the unveiling of a revamped terrorism alert system.

"Under my leadership as

secretary, we in fact began to consult social media in connection with conferring various immigration benefits and we will be doing more of this," he added. "Any reports or partial reports to the contrary are simply false."

He noted DHS consults intelligence community databases and law enforcement databases when it does vetting for "a lot" of immigration benefits but said social media is also useful. **REUTERS**

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Teens smoked, drank, used drugs less in 2015: Study

A decades-long decline in teenage drinking and smoking continued in 2015 and use of some drugs by eighth-graders and high school students also fell, while marijuana consumption extended a five-year flat trend, according to results of a study released on Wednesday.

Teen cigarette smoking fell to its lowest level since the University of Michigan began doing its national survey on licit and illicit substances in 1975, according to a news release on the study, part of a series called Monitoring the Future.

Only 7 percent of students in grades eight, 10 and 12 who were polled reported smoking cigarettes in the previous month, down from 8 percent a year earlier and the lowest level in 41 years of annual tracking.

"Such a reduction can translate eventually into preventing hundreds of thousands of premature deaths as well as many serious diseases," Lloyd Johnston, principal investigator of the study, said in a news release.

The study said increased taxes, advertising restrictions, smoking bans in many public places and quit-smoking campaigns are all paying off.

Forty percent of the



The study, funded by grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, one of the National Institutes of Health, surveyed 44,892 students in 382 secondary schools. GETTY IMAGES

students polled said they had used alcohol in the past year and 22 percent said they had done so in the previous 30 days — also the lowest levels since the study began in the mid-1970s. The one-year decline was not statistically significant, the report said, but the long-term decline is highly significant.

Students also reported declining use of heroin, synthetic marijuana, amphetamines and MDMA, which is known as Ecstasy or Molly.

There was no change in consumption of marijuana, the most used illicit drug.

The survey said 12 percent of eighth-graders, 25 percent of 10th-graders and 35 percent of 12th-graders reported using marijuana at least once in the prior 12

"After rising for several years, the annual prevalence of marijuana has more or less leveled out since about 2010."

The report

months.

As far as more habitual use of marijuana, "one in every 16 or 17 high school seniors is smoking marijuana daily or near daily," the study said. "These rates have changed rather little since 2010 but are for three to six times higher than they were at their low point in 1991." REUTERS

BRIEF

Apple's stock dips as concerns mount about iPhone shipments
Shares of Apple dipped on Wednesday on growing expectations that the consumer technology company may sell fewer iPhones next year than previously thought.

In a note to clients, Bank of America cut its estimate for fiscal 2016 iPhone shipments by 10 million to 220 million, pointing to a weakening among Apple's suppliers.

In another note, Raymond

James lowered its estimate for 2016 iPhone shipments to 224 million from 229 million, also pointing to lackluster expectations at Apple suppliers. And on Tuesday, Baird Equity Research trimmed its 2016 iPhone forecast to 234.7 million from 243.8 million, implying 1.5 percent growth over 2015.

Reflecting growing doubts about future iPhone sales, shares of Apple have fallen 4.4 percent over the past month and are down about 18 percent from

record highs in April.

In the latest hints of weakness among Apple suppliers, Imagination Technologies on Tuesday said softness in the overall semiconductor industry and smartphone market meant its operating profit would be lower than expected for the rest of its fiscal year.

That mirrored weakness at German peer Dialog Semi, which also cut its outlook, citing softer-than-expected demand for chips used in mobile phones. REUTERS

Trouble in Gwen and Blake land

I'm sure it's just a total, complete coincidence that just after the latest season of "The Voice" ends we get our first report of trouble in the romance between co-coaches Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton. Not suspicious at all, this. So the duo, both recently divorced and involved in a "romance" that's been played up for the cameras during the last few weeks of episodes, are said to be hitting a rough patch after a backstage incident in which Shelton left his phone behind in the makeup room and Stefani witnessed a text message come in from his ex-wife, Miranda Lambert, according to *In Touch*. "Gwen saw it and lost it. She found Blake and asked to speak



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

to him privately, but he said he couldn't right then and there. She had tears running down her face and went and locked herself in her dressing room," a source says. "Gwen has seen texts between Blake and Miranda. She's really a mess over this." Is she, though? Or is this all part of the predetermined plan? God, when did I become so cynical?

the word

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ned.ehrbar@metro.us



The Weeknd in hot water with Bella Hadid

When will people learn that parties are not the best places to misbehave? You know, because other people can see you? Singer The Weeknd apparently didn't realize this when he decided to face-time a pair of eager young fans at a private party celebrating the release of his new album — a party from which 19-year-old model girlfriend, as in she's a model and his girlfriend, not a "model girlfriend" — Bella Hadid was conspicuously absent. "He went to an after-party at a private house in L.A.," a source tells *Life & Style*, where he hit it off with a blonde and a brunette. "He was making out with both of them, going back and forth. Then they disappeared into a bedroom together." But it's totally cool, I'm sure he just wanted to explain to them in private how much he loves his girlfriend. Now, maybe I'm a little out of touch, but what's a Weeknd?

Lupita Nyong'o's clueless 'Star Wars' audition

Hollywood can keep you busy, especially after you've won an Academy Award for your film debut. That might explain why Lupita Nyong'o didn't quite connect the dots when she had a meeting with J.J. Abrams a couple of years ago. "I didn't really know what I was auditioning for," said Nyong'o, who plays the alien Maz Kanata in "The Force Awakens," the latest "Star Wars" film. "I guess I thought I should find work, you know? I was so busy, I was working with adrenaline, so I went in and out. I barely remember that audition, and then two months later [Abrams] called me." So what did this mystery audition entail, exactly? "I remember crouching around and using my hands as a gun." Sounds ... fun?



@KChenoweth
I'm tired.



@MarkDuplass
Sometimes I look in the mirror and think to myself... f— yeah.



@DanaDelany
I think I could have cured Alzheimers, in the amount of time I've spent doing crossword puzzles to prevent it.



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All I want for Christmas is a baby in a Santa hat. In a basket.

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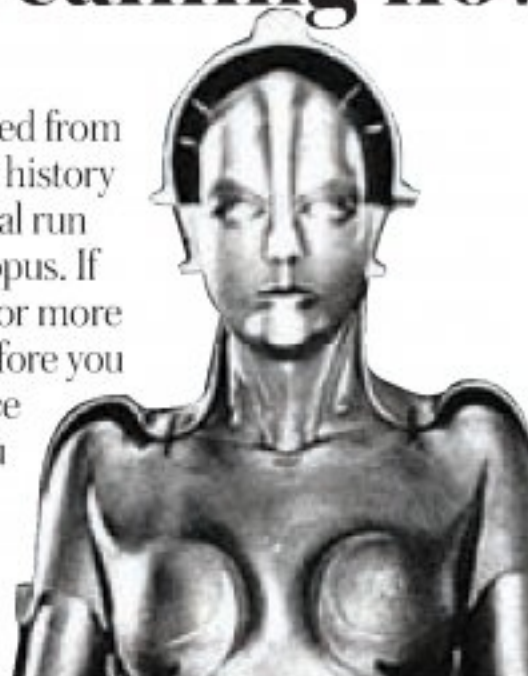
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Films streaming now that inspired 'Star Wars'



George Lucas borrowed from cinema and literature history to create the original run of his magnum opus. If you're jonesing for more "Star Wars" before you see "The Force Awakens," you can subsist on these. **MATT PRIGGE**



"2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY" (1968)



"2001: A Space Odyssey" blew audiences' minds with stunning visions of space travel back in 1968. **WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

Big-budget space movies were pretty thin on the ground in 1970s Hollywood, despite the rise of the space program — and especially considering one of the 1960s' biggest hits: Stanley Kubrick's hypnotic sci-fi/art film. You can see the cash-strapped "Star Wars" production drawing on the pioneering work of "2001's" crafty f/x artist Douglas Trumbull, who found practical ways to create many of the film's still-stunning images. **See on: Netflix Instant**

"THE HIDDEN FORTRESS" (1957)

At this point, Akira Kurosawa's samurai opus is better known as the film Lucas most extensively ripped off for the movie we'd rather not refer to as "A New Hope." It's not exactly the same story, but it does feature the following: a pair of bickering peasants, a surly hero, a feisty princess, a mysterious baddie (who might not be as bad as he lets on) and, of course, a not-so-impregnable fortress. It's also, for Kurosawa, a relatively light affair. The director's samurai films are often as serious as they are dynamic — or, in the case of "Yojimbo," hilariously

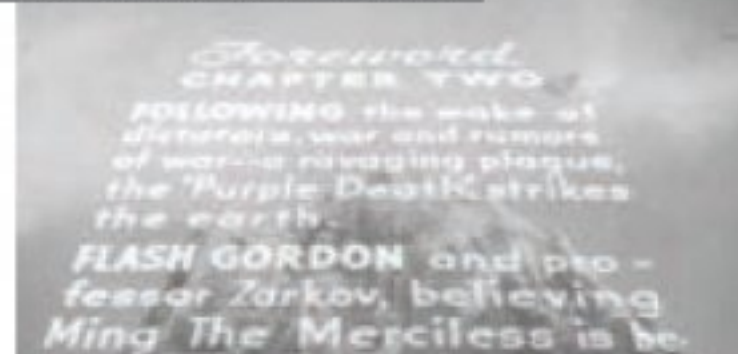


Like "Star Wars," Akira Kurosawa's "The Hidden Fortress" features a feisty princess and two of her lowly followers. **CRITERION COLLECTION**

cynical. But "The Hidden Fortress" is pretty much a straight-up adventure, beautifully told and filmed, and only profound in its final moments. "I had fun,"

the princess rhapsodizes in retrospect, even as all seems doomed. "I got to see the good and bad in people." **See on: Hulu Plus**

"FLASH GORDON" SERIALS (1936-1940)



George Lucas swiped the opening text crawls of his "Star Wars" films from the old "Flash Gordon" serials. **PROVIDED**

Lucas drew a lot of his visuals — and the gee-whiz cliffhanger nature of the "Star Wars" plot — from the

1930s "Flash Gordon" serials, which starred swimmer-turned-actor Buster Crabbe as Alex Raymond's comic-strip hero: a

polo player who finds himself amid adventures in space. The rising title cards that open each "Star Wars" entry were lifted straight from them. You could say the same for Luke Skywalker himself, who, like Flash, is a blond everyguy plucked from his home to battle a scary supervillain. It only took three years after "Star Wars" for a "Flash Gordon" movie to join the throngs of ripoffs, although it was too delightfully weird to create its own franchise. **See on: YouTube**, as they're in the public domain

"METROPOLIS" (1927)

In 1984, no less than synth-music lord Giorgio Moroder restored Fritz Lang's sci-fi saga, reworking it for modern audiences. Moroder lost the intertitles, cut it down to 87 minutes and lathered it in music by the likes of Pat Benatar, Freddy Mercury, Adam Ant and Loverboy. This new "Metropolis" also introduced evil metal robot Maria back into the pop culture landscape — suspiciously looking a lot like Lucas' more benign C-3PO. **See on: Netflix Instant**



Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" also features a metal robot, this one on the dark side. **KINO**

"CASABLANCA" (1942)



"Casablanca" features a melting-pot bar, just like the cantina from "Star Wars." **WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

If that multicultural cantina scene looked familiar, that's because Lucas was inspired by Rick's Cafe in "Casablanca," a hive for the world's scum and villains — or at least everyone from Peter Lorre to Claude Rains to Sidney Greenstreet to Humphrey Bogart himself. Better yet: Massive midfilm flashback aside, the bar stuff takes up pretty much the whole movie. **See on: For purchase on iTunes, Google Play and Vudu**

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'Once' brings Allston's Erica Spyres to the Shubert Theatre

Erica Spyres makes her Shubert debut in the national tour of the Tony-winning musical



NICK DUSSAULT
@MetroBOS
letters@metro.us

Erica Spyres, 33, had limited acting experience when she moved to Boston eight years ago from the Ozarks. The Allston-based actress has since taken home the 2014 Elliot Norton Award for her role in SpeakEasy Stage Company's production of "Tribes," and landed the part of Ex-Girlfriend/Reza in the national tour of "Once," the Tony Award-winning musical now playing at the Shubert Theatre.

After 16 months on the road, it must be nice to be playing at home.

It's really pretty cool to see that huge marquee outside of the Shubert and know this is happening. I remember walking through the Theater District and hoping: One day, maybe. But when I got here, I really identified, and still do, more as a musician than an actor. I feel so fortuitous to find something that showcases the things that I do well.

It does seem like there wouldn't be a lot of opportunities for a violinist-vocalist in the theater.

Right. But the trend toward actor-musicians is happening right now. "Once," "Company" and the "Sweeney Todd" revival have all done actor-musician shows. Who knows how long it will last? I tell everyone to keep up with whatever instruments you play. You never know when it will be the thing that gets you the job.

You certainly are part of an incredibly talented ensemble.

These people are amazing. Most of them play a bunch of instruments. I play basic trumpet,



If you go

"Once" until Dec 27
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Erica Spyres, pictured, center right, with Evan Harrington. JOAN MARCUS

guitar and piano, but violin and voice are my specialties. It's inspiring to be with so many talented musicians who make me want to learn more and do more, to stretch beyond my limitations. Every night I watch some of them and think, "Hmm, keep practicing, Erica."

You seem to be right at home on stage with them.

Having grown up playing and singing folk-like music with family and friends, this show feels really right to me. It's more like a chamber musical, very ensemble-heavy, so I sometimes feel like I'm just playing and singing with friends.

Tell us about your benefit show.

After our Dec. 20 show, we will head over to the Jacob Wirth Restaurant for a musical benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. The entire cast will be singing and playing, some original stuff, some covers, mostly with a bluegrass lilt to them. We did a similar thing in D.C. for Cyndi Lauper's True Colors Foundation. It was such a great night.

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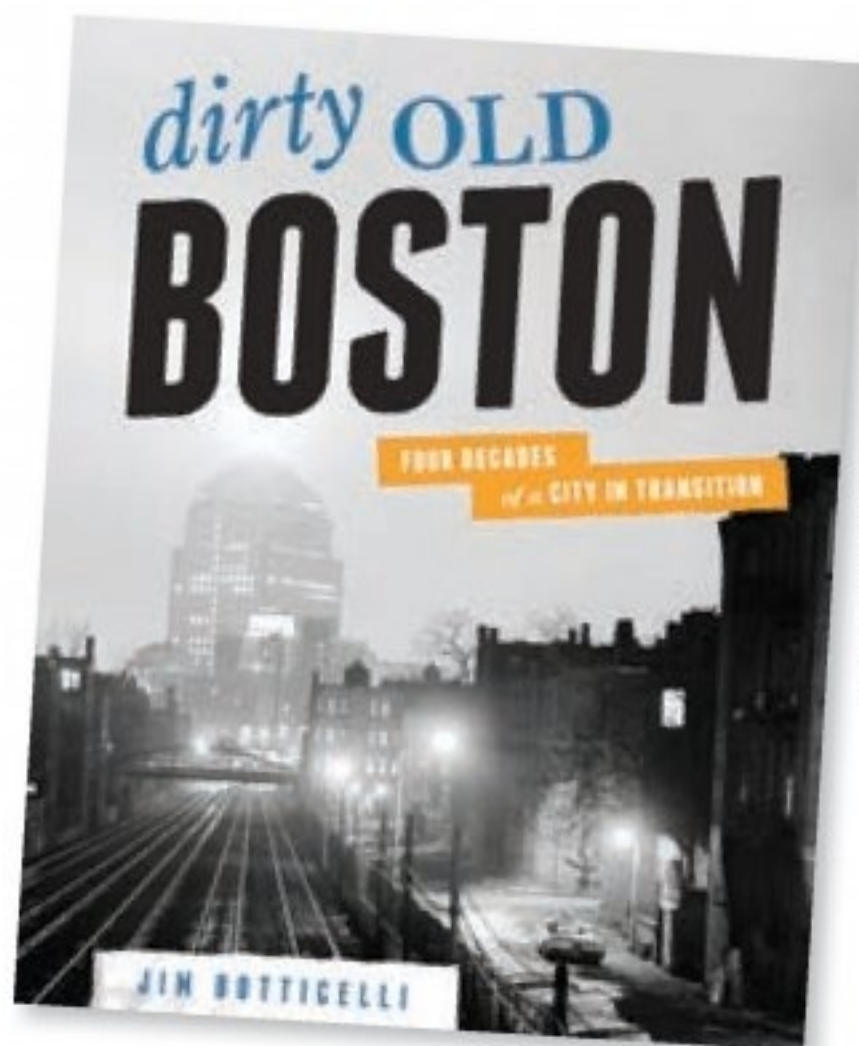
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This holiday season, ditch the chains and big box stores. We went shopping in some of our favorite local boutiques to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list, including your dog. **MEGAN JOHNSON**



1 "Dirty Old Boston: Four Decades of a City in Transition" by Jim Botticelli

Go back with this chronicle of historic photos from the pre-'90s Hub. Grown out of a Facebook page, this rich and compelling book is a love letter to the city. (\$30, **SAULT New England**, 577 Tremont St.)

2 Posh and Prep's Notorious B.I.G. song lyric print

The popular Boston calligrapher counts this Notorious B.I.G. quote as one of her best-selling pieces, particularly as a gift between girlfriends. (5x7 is \$15 and 8x10 is \$25, **Neatly Nested Design and Decor**, 373 W. Broadway, South Boston)



3 Farmhouse cheese crate

Any gourmand will go crazy for this collection of four cheeses, salami, preserves from Doves & Figs and a slate board with wooden serving utensils. (From \$250, **Winston Flowers**, 131 Newbury St., check website for additional locations)

4 Boston Harbor Distillery's Spirit of Boston Package

This three-bottle set from the new Dorchester distillery includes multilayered whiskey varieties distilled from a trio of distinct Samuel Adams beers: New World Tripel, Thirteenth Hour and Merry Maker Gingerbread Stout. (\$120, **Boston Harbor Distillery**, 12R Ericsson St., Dorchester, Bostonharbordistillery.com)



5 Phillips' Chocolates sea salt caramels

Oprah may be crazy for the turtles made by Boston's oldest chocolatier, but we're craving its sea-salt caramels. Snag a nine-piece assortment, dipped in milk and dark chocolate and sprinkled with Himalayan white sea salt. (\$10.50, **Phillips Candy House**, 818 William T. Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester, Phillipschocolate.com. Check website for additional locations)



Continued on page 18



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Continued from page 16

6 Ogawa Coffee Kiyomizu Cups

The shop is the only place in the U.S. to snag these two hand-painted kiyomizu-yaki cups from Kyoto, Japan, Boston's sister city. Designed to enhance the brew's taste, the mugs come with 9-oz. bags of Ogawa's Kyoto House Blend beans and single-origin beans. (\$125, Ogawa Coffee, 10 Milk St., Boston, Ogawacoffeeusa.com)

**8 Linda Meredith's Couture Facial with Oxygen**

For a dose of decadence, send Mom to Boston's most luxurious spa to try the U.S. debut of Linda Meredith Skincare, which firms skin with the healing power of oxygen. A face, neck and shoulder massage is the perfect way to hold your standing as favorite child. (\$270 on weekdays, \$285 on weekends, The Spa at the Mandarin Oriental Boston, 776 Boylston St., Boston, mandarinoriental.com/boston.)

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**9 Bureo "Minnow" Skateboard**

Sustainable skateboard brand Bureo made this deck out of recycled fishing nets. The company, which tries to cut down ocean waste by converting it into useful materials, received help from the New England Aquarium's Marine Conservation Action Fund. (\$149.99, New England Aquarium Gift Shop, 1 Central Wharf, Boston, neaq.org.)

**10 Smoke 'N' Caddy**

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What fashion insiders are gifting this holiday season

Want to give something personal, useful and chic? We asked five savvy style, beauty and taste gurus to share their shopping lists. **RAQUEL LANERI**

Designer Rebecca Minkoff made her name with the perpetually sold-out Morning After bag. Her cool-girl clothes, accessories and wearables epitomize downtown style.

"I'm obsessed with Apotheke candles! They're handmade in Brooklyn and have so many different scents. I love lighting the pine candle during the winter." (PINE CANDLE, \$30, APOTHEKECO.COM)

REBECCA MINKOFF



CHRIS SALGADO

Chris Salgado, president of Kiehl's USA, has a new book out: "Manmade: The Essential Skincare & Grooming Reference for Every Man." "I like my gifts to be memorable and meaningful beyond the holiday," he says.



"Being able to symbolically 'adopt' an African elephant or another endangered creature is great, but more importantly, it's a gift of preservation for future generations." (AFRICAN ELEPHANT ADOPTION KIT, \$25-\$100, GIFTS.WORLDDWILDLIFE.ORG)

Deborah Lloyd is president and creative director of Kate Spade New York, which has a new, unsurprisingly adorable book, "Kate Spade New York: All in Good Taste."

"Everyone needs a chic, personalized spot to put their things — or as I like to call them, curiosities. These monogrammed acrylic trays are perfect." (MARK AND GRAHAM MONOGRAMMED ACRYLIC TRAYS, \$55-\$65, MARKANDGRAHAM.COM)



DEBORAH LLOYD

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DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



things to do

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Thirsty: Doretta Taverna brings Mediterranean mixology to Back Bay

Raise a glass to Greece at Michael Schlow's new venture

Thirsty



LUKE O'NEIL
@lukeoneil47

There are two types of openings worth paying attention to in the era of eating and dining we're living through: cocktail bars that also happen to serve thoughtful food, and chef-focused restaurants that want the quality of their bar program to match what's coming out of the kitchen. With Doretta Taverna being a Michael Schlow venture, the food is clearly the draw, but there are some interesting and unique cocktails coming across the bar as well.

Whether or not you'll be able to enjoy them

while you're there is another thing. Doretta Taverna, a reimagining of the old Via Matta space, is a high-energy, dark, and loud affair, so the bar, which is crowded from open to close, doesn't feel conducive to dining. It's too busy for a relaxing meal, with a sort of nightclub pushiness to it at times, but also feels like too much of a restaurant to make one want to stop off for a quick drink.

Still, the drinks are approachable and hospitably served, and at their best when they're echoing the notes of the Greek-focused cuisine.

"We're not a craft cocktail bar, but we're trying to make really well-made cocktails with really good ingredients," Megan Cormier, the general manager, says. "We're trying to do some fun things and bring in some of the flavors from some of the Greek spirits we use."

Among them is the lovely Persephone's Seeds, made with bourbon, Tentura, pomegranate and celery bitters. Tentura, a Greek liqueur, is imbued with clove, nutmeg and vanilla, and the bitters pull everything back from being overly sweet.

Other Greek-inspired liqueurs show up throughout, like the lightly piney Mastiha mixed with vodka, mint and lemon, and the anise-honey Rakomelo, mixed with brandy, blood orange and cinnamon. The highlight of the menu, however, is Medusa's Locks, which, unless you have too many, probably won't turn you to stone. It's made with gin, cucumber-jalapeno syrup, agave and lemon for a bright, citrusy and vegetal sup with slight heat.

Doretta Taverna, 79 Park Plaza, Boston, 617-422-0008, doretta-boston.com

Follow Luke O'Neil on Twitter at @lukeoneil47.

Last minute holiday pop-up gift shops in Boston

If you're still struggling to find a thoughtful gift, why not cherry-pick from ideas carefully curated by someone else? Lazy? Nah. We'll call it ... resourceful.

The city is brimming with pop-ups this holiday season, where tastemakers have rounded up the small-batch, the artisanal and the trendy for your convenience. Not only will your gift be cool, it'll be unique and supportive of local businesses. And, lucky for you, there's no wait for shipping.

The Hawthorne

The Hawthorne in Kenmore has been hosting a series of pop-up Monday evening markets with local retailers and makers like Davis Square's Magpie and custom jeweler, E. Scott Originals. On Dec. 21, beloved Union Square gift and paper proprietor Loyal Supply Co. joins the mix with design-conscious goodies for him and her. Treats from the



Inside Eat Boutique's temporary space in North Allston. HEIDI MURPHY

bar will also be served on the house. **Monday, Dec. 21, 5-7 p.m., 500 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, thehawthornebar.com**

Sault

Menswear mainstay Sault opened The Holiday Shop, a temporary storefront next to its South End brick and mortar on Tremont Street that sells novelties, New England-made provisions and stocking stuffers

for dudes. The shop will be open through Jan. 9. **Open Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Holiday hours extended to 8 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting Dec. 17, 579 Tremont St., Boston, 857-239-9434,**

saultne.com

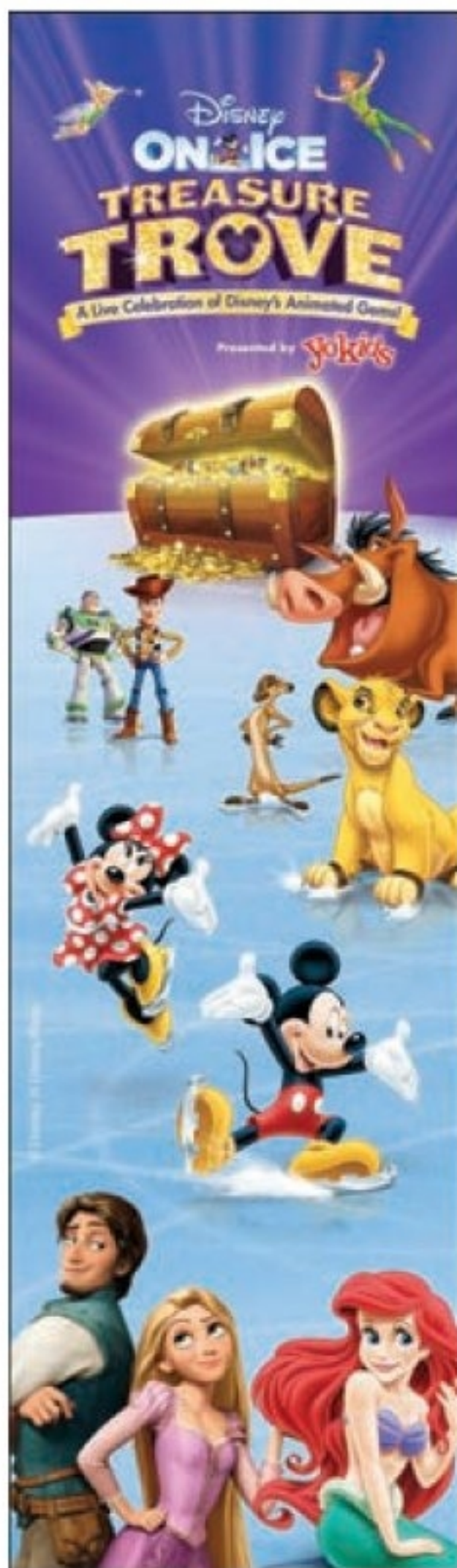
Fringe Union

Collaborative workspace Fringe Union in Union Square will feature some of its startup and ar-

tisan residents at this weekend's Shop n' Hang Holiday Market. Vendors will include Foret floral design, chic ladies workwear by Gamine and the always tasty Union Square Donuts. **Saturday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 9 Olive Sq., Somerville, fringeunion.com**

Eat Boutique

Eat Boutique is hosting its pop-up Holiday Market in North Allston, with foodie events and special guests through the end of the week. This weekend includes book signings with Flour head honcho Joanne Chang and a "Last-Minute Food Gifts" workshop with "Food Gift Love" author (and Eat Boutique founder) Maggie Battista. Culinary curiosities from more than 70 small-batch makers will also be available for purchase, including the launch of Mei Mei Street Kitchen's debut bottled sauce line. **Wednesday-Friday, 2-8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 267 Western Ave., North Allston, eatboutique.com/holiday-market**



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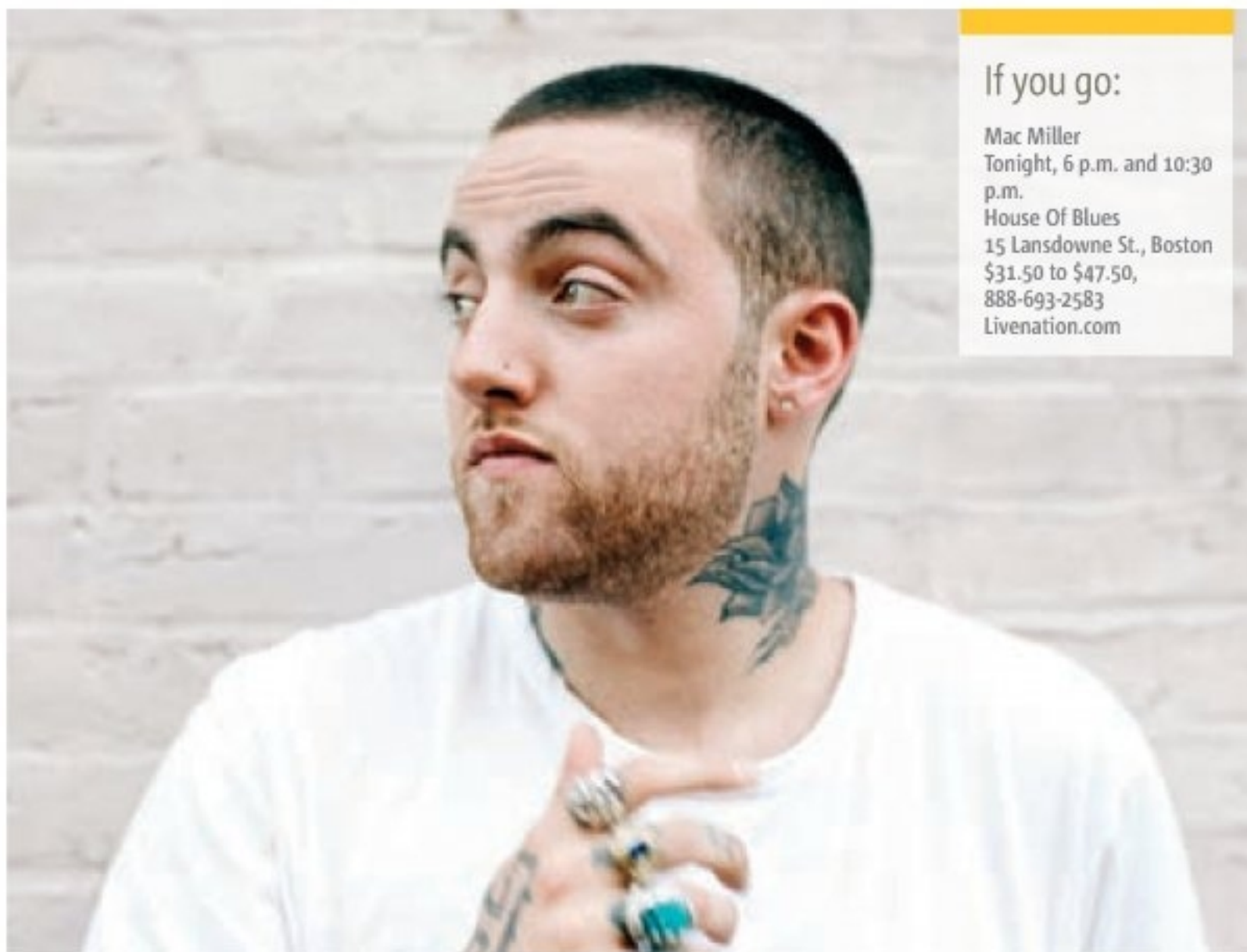
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"It's great to have fun again," Mac Miller says of his new, cheerier album, "GO:OD AM." BRICK STOWELL

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Mac Miller turns the sound back on

The Pittsburgh-native rapper discusses moving past addiction and messing with Donald Trump.



A.D. AMOROSI
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Mac Miller has a smart new album, "GO:OD AM," a new label deal (worth a reported \$10 million) and a tour hitting the East Coast this weekend. When he says, "There's nothing wrong with fun," the 23-year-old knows what he's talking about, especially considering that this time last year, "fun was kind of rare."

The rapper, whose goofy track "Donald Trump" caused the Republican presidential candidate to call him a "dog" on Twitter, debuted in 2011 with the breezy, frat-boyish "Blue Slide Park." Miller's nasal voice and boyish concerns made him into

a sillier Eminem from the start.

"The old days were cool," says Miller, reminiscing about his hometown of Pittsburgh and his early work. "I was never that far from the comforts of home. Then again, you never want to be too comfortable."

Shutting out reality

But by the time Miller dropped his moodily atmospheric second album, 2013's "Watching Movies With the Sound Off," and 2014's dour mixtape "Faces," things had gotten serious and sad for the rapper: He was addicted to promethazine and codeine, with depression and cocaine use following. "Watching Movies" wasn't stuck in one emotion but was varied — very trippy and cerebral, a mix of party music and serious stuff I was going through," Miller says. "There were a lot of internal questions I had to answer."

He answered them with "shutting out reality," staying depressed and staying high.

"It was killing me, so I got out of it all," says Miller about shifting gears from lots of drugs to no drugs. "I stopped being in denial about how bad it was, stopped thinking about what could be, and manned up. I trusted my gut and got better."

Making a much needed change

He decided that being around more people — as opposed to the isolation and insularity of Los Angeles, where he was living at that point — was a key to getting healthy, so he moved to Brooklyn's Dumbo neighborhood this year. "I loved the West Coast, but Brooklyn's better. You can't hide," he says.

Recording "GO:OD AM" was an act of joy rather than drudgery. As usual, Miller's new album is without many

guests — "It has to be organic. Why spend the money otherwise?" — and refuses to force square pegs into round holes. He stays in touch with his one-time duet partner Ariana Grande, with whom he recorded "The Way" in 2013. "We're part of two different genres, but I'd love to figure out something with her," Miller says.

As for the subject of another of Miller's past singles, he doesn't care much for The Donald. "It's worrisome. I think [Trump's supporters] have a lot of growing to do. You can't be ignorant to reality."

Miller's reality is looking up. "The state of mind I was in when I made 'GO:OD AM' was definitely better, cheerier," he says. "My life had changed across the board, and I wanted to reflect the light at the end of the tunnel. You grow, and you get more confident. It's great to have fun again."

Listings

MUSIC

Audrey Harrer

Saturday, 8 p.m.
Arts at the Armory Café
191 Highland Ave., Somerville
\$8-\$10, 617-718-2191
Journeysinsounds.eventbrite.com
It's hard to avoid comparing local singer-harpist to Joanna Newsom. Nonetheless, they're quite different: Harrer's lysergic, complexly textured chamber pop compositions favor detached, intellectual cool over storybook "freak folk" whimsy. She'll be joined by Korean gayageum player Do Yeon Kim.



PROVIDED

COMEDY

Rebels Without Applause

Saturday, 8 p.m.
Democracy Center
45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge
\$10, info@rebelsimprov.com
Rebelsimprov.com
ImprovBoston and Improv Asylum are, of course, the two most prominent improv comedy troupes in the city, but there are many others, including this group, who've been making people laugh on the spot since 2004.

STORYTELLING

Massmouth Story Slam: Debauchery

Monday, 7 p.m.
Club Passim
47 Palmer St., Cambridge
\$10, 617-492-7679
Massmouth.org
Massmouth holds a number of "story slams" — like poetry slams but with personal stories — throughout the year, and the winners of each get to compete in the finals later on. Each competition has a theme, and this week's is a fun one: debauchery.

ART

Anthony Bastic. You can catch it on the Dartmouth Street side of the Boston Public Library.

Somerville Illuminations Tour

Saturday, 4:30-10 p.m.
Somerville City Hall
93 Highland Ave., Somerville
\$10, 617-625-6600 ext. 2985
Somervilleartscouncil.org
Trolleys will leave from Somerville City Hall this Saturday evening for a tour passing by some of the most decorated homes in the city — the tasteful, the garish and everything in between.

MOVIES

'Scrooged'

Friday and Saturday
Coolidge Corner Theater
290 Harvard St., Brookline
\$12, 617-734-2500
Coolidge.org
This surreal, highly imaginative 1988 re-telling of "A Christmas Carol" is a classic of '80s comedy and a classic "selfish jerk who's forced to face the music" role for Bill Murray, whose merciless treatment at the hands of his three ghostly visitors is always satisfying to watch.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

The Mayor's Celebration of Lights

Thursday through Sunday
Boston Public Library
700 Boylston St., Boston
Free, Cityofboston.gov
Sure, it's a bummer that it gets dark so early this time of year, but that makes it all the better for light shows. This one, running each night this weekend, is a ten-minute loop with 3D projections, created by Australian artist

FOOD

Everyone Loves Latkes Party

Sunday, 1:30-2 p.m.
Brattle Plaza
31 Brattle St., Cambridge
Free, 617-491-3434
Harvardsquare.com
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Dream vacation: Barbados



ALL PHOTOS SHUTTERSTOCK

With its white sand beaches, swaying palm trees and laid-back vibe, Barbados could be any other Caribbean island, but its beguiling British charm sets it apart.

A favorite with cruise lines thanks to its location just 62 miles east of St. Vincent and the Windward Islands, Barbados is perfectly located for destination-rich voyages around some of the region's best-loved islands.

Cruise lines mostly visit in winter, when temperatures average 80. Companies, including Carnival Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line, call for a day of sightsee-

George Washington stayed here



ing, while upscale Seabourn, SeaDream, Star Clippers and Windstar use it as an embark or debark port — ideal for anyone who wants a few days in some of the most luxurious hotels in the West Indies at the start or end of their cruise.

The port is about a 20-minute

walk from Bridgetown, the capital, from where you can pick up catamaran cruises and visit the house, now a museum, where George Washington lived for two months in 1751. It was the only time he ever left America.

A statue of Lord Nelson

presides over National Heroes Square, or Trafalgar Square as it was called before independence from Britain 50 years ago. Expect festivals, sports competitions and parades to celebrate the anniversary on Nov. 30, 2016.

Although Barbados is small,

Where to stay

Port Ferdinand: This new resort and residential complex is already a sought-after address in Barbados. Luxurious two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments are set around a marina and are perfect for families or couples. If you can't bear to leave, prices start at \$2.15 million.

Sandals Barbados: An upmarket all-inclusive for couples only on the

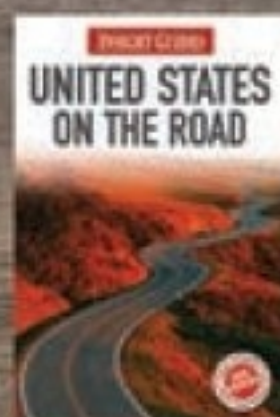
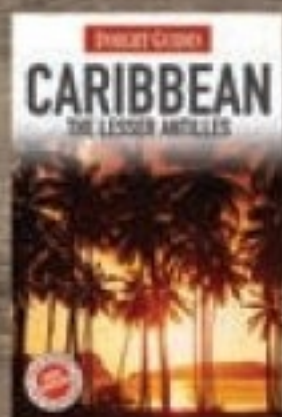
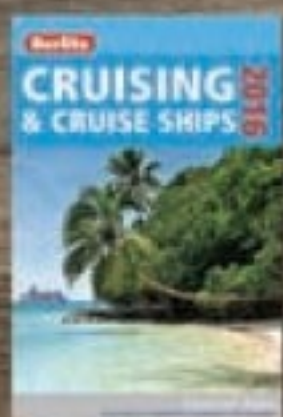
south coast, Sandals has beachfront suites with butlers, 11 restaurants and the longest lagoon pool on the island.

The House: This adults-only boutique property on the island's west coast has 34 sumptuous suites and serves champagne breakfasts, offers free water sports and includes one complimentary massage per guest in the price.

just 21 miles long and 14 miles wide, there's plenty to occupy a day or two ashore, from lazing on the beach to going underground at Harrison's Cave, a wonderland of stalactites and stalagmites, streams and waterfalls. There are tours and tastings at the Mount Gay Rum distillery, a botanical feast at

the 52-acre Flower Forest and round-island Jeep tours that visit the wild east coast, where surfers pit their skills against powerful Atlantic waves. At the Animal Flower Cave, steps lead into a cavern that's home to sea anemones, crabs and interesting rock formations.

INSIGHT GUIDES | JANE ARCHER



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www.insightguides.com



Ring in the new year in the Maine wilderness

Tired of New Year's Eve celebrations that are all confetti, noisemakers, loud bands and booze? Try a nature-themed way to greet 2016.

Say "hostel," and you picture a dorm filled with loud young backpackers. But changing that image in a big way is the goal of Maine Huts and Trails. Calling its properties "boutique hostels," its four lodges in the remote wilderness of western Maine are far removed from the traditional hostel scene.

All the buildings and systems are eco-friendly, with clean energy systems. Each features a large, well-appointed community building with wood stoves,

windows providing panoramic views, and decor straight from the photo shoot of a celebrity vacation home. Creature comforts include hot showers and radiant floor heating. Separate heated bunkhouses provide sleeping space with both the usual communal bedrooms as well as semiprivate rooms suitable for families. Bring a sleeping bag or your own sheets; this is still a hostel, and not everything is provided.

What is included are breakfast and dinner. While meals at most hostels are pot luck experiments derived from random contents of backpacks, meals at the Maine Huts lodges are planned, prepared and served by staff.

The lodges share 80 miles of trails

Eco-friendly lodges at Maine Huts share 80 miles of trails for hiking, snowshoeing and skiing.

suitable for hiking, snowshoeing, and Nordic, cross-country and backcountry skiing. About 45 miles of trails are groomed, although not to "resort" quality. The lodges are about 20 miles apart, so the truly fit and inspired can plan a hut-to-hut tour of several days.

Guests on New Year's Eve can welcome 2016 with Champagne. Two lodges — Stratton, near Sugarloaf, with views of the Bigelow Mountain Range, and Flagstaff, which is particularly good for families — plan holiday feasts created with locally sourced ingredients.

Check Mainehuts.org for details, plus information on guided overnight snowshoeing trips in January.

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When tableside temptation strikes. CLAUDIO CAPUCHO/GETTY CONTRIBUTOR

What not to feed your dog this holiday season

Like, literally,
everything.



RACHEL RACZKA
@rachelraczka
rachel.raczka@metro.us

Your favorite family member might be begging for table scraps this season, but that doesn't mean you have to give into his doleful puppy wiles. In fact, sharing your turkey dinner leftovers or fat-laden bones with man's best friend can lead to much more harm than good.

"Dogs can't digest fat as people know it," said Mark Armour, owner of

Dorchester-South Boston-based The Pooped Pooch. "So that extra chicken or turkey skin or fat from rib-eye can lead to emergency rooms filled with dogs with pancreatitis."

Raisins, macadamia nuts, chocolate, chewing gum — common holiday ingredients and novelties top the list of what not to feed your pooch, or leave lying around the house. Armour, who founded his dog walking and pet care company nearly 10 years ago, extensively studied pup nutrition after a dog of his own developed food issues.

Lists of restricted and

toxic foods are just a quick Google search away (or as we covered here), but Armour advised to err on the side of caution when debating sharing snacks during this entertaining-heavy season.

But what if they beg? "Give them their regular food."

But ... but really?

"I always recommend 2 Dogs Treats," Armour said. "They buy their meats from a distributor that also delivers to restaurants in the Boston area and just dry it. They're a very, very good company, and very ethical."

Cat got your heart?

As stressful as holiday parties can be for both of you and your host's cat, it can be a great chance to become friends. Christina Ha, co-owner of NYC's first cat café, Meow Parlour, shared her tricks to winning over the one holiday guest who can't be easily impressed.

Skip the perfume.

Wearing perfume or cologne is just another bit of newness, but it could also bother the cat's nose. Try to smell neutral by sticking to deodorant and clean clothes.

Don't make eye contact.

The cat will perceive it as aggression if it doesn't know you.

Don't bring a new toy.



No new friends. ISTOCK

If the cat is feeling good about being in the same space with everyone, ask the host to lend you a toy the pet is familiar with — the cat will know how the toy will behave and how to respond to it.

Let them make the first move. Don't try to touch or pick up a cat just because it's sitting there.

As its clichéd but accurate reputation for curiosity overwhelms fear, the cat will likely take an interest in your stuff first, so make sure there's nothing in your purse that you don't want it to get into. Don't take that interest as a sign to pet, though — it's familiarizing itself with you, not making overtures (yet). EVANS

PICKING FROM THE RUNNING BACK SCRAP HEAP



Patriots running back Brandon Bolden should get the brunt of the carries this weekend for the Patriots. GETTY IMAGES

At this point, everyone knows that the bust rates of running backs are higher than other position due to injuries, committees and rule changes. But this year has been one for the record books.

Le'Veon Bell, Eddie Lacy, Jamaal Charles, Marshawn Lynch, Matt Forte, DeMarco Murray, C.J. Anderson and Jeremy Hill all went in the first two rounds of your draft. And they've all either gotten hurt or have grossly underperformed. Only Adrian Peterson and LeSean McCoy have emerged from this top-two-round mess intact.

All this carnage is coming to a head in the fantasy playoffs, with third- and fourth-string running backs suddenly looking like keys to rosters. What to expect:

Bold on Bolden

Sunday's game against the Titans is the proverbial "big back" game for the Patriots as they're in Foxboro and are favored by 14 points. Now stepping into the great footsteps of Corey Dillon, Stevan Ridley, BenJarvus Green-Ellis, Laurence Maroney and LeGar-

ADAM LEVITAN

FANTASY SPORTS

Adam Levitan is a Fantasy Sports columnist for Metro US. He is also a DraftKings analyst and co-host of The Daily Fantasy Football Edge podcast. @AdamLevitan



rette Blount is Brandon Bolden. A favorite of the coaching staff thanks to his rugged versatility (special teams, pass protection, inside running), Bolden is a great bet for at least 15 carries Sunday. Don't be afraid to scoop and start him in your playoffs.

Regressing off a High

Tim Hightower's 28 carries against the Bucs last week were six more

than Mark Ingram ever received in a game. It showed this staff has a lot of faith in Hightower, but it also had a lot to do with a really unusual game flow. The Saints defense actually stood tall, leading to more than 37 minutes in time of possession and a whopping 78 offensive plays. Hightower is a reasonable play against the Lions this week, but expect something closer to 15 carries.

Mr. Robinson's neighborhood

Former Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson continues to improve as a running back. He averaged 3.3 YPC as a rookie, 4.3 last year and is up at 4.6 this year. Now comes a big chance with T.J. Yeldon (knee) in doubt for Sunday's home game against the Falcons. An explosive runner who projects for two to four catches as well, Robinson is a must-add and must-start assuming Yeldon is inactive. Note that "Shoelace" has gotten at least 15 touches six times in his career, averaging 16.6 carries for 81.5 yards with 0.83 TDs in those.

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Steven Jackson reportedly worked out with the Patriots on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Pats take a long, hard look at RB Jackson

The former Rams superstar has not yet played in 2015.



MATT BURKE
@burke_metro
matthew.burke@metro.us

The Patriots have taken fliers on older, big name players in the past (think Chad Ochocinco, the late Junior Seau, Joey Galloway and Reggie Wayne). These moves rarely pay off, but there's certainly no hurt in trying.

New England took a look at three-time Pro Bowl running back Steven Jackson on Wednesday, a day after signing

Montee Ball to the practice squad and a day after news broke that LeGarrette Blount is done for the remainder of the 2015 season.

Jackson was phenomenal during his career with the St. Louis Rams, racking up eight-straight seasons of 1,000-plus rushing yards. But his two years in Atlanta were less than spectacular as he gained 543 yards on 157 carries in 2013 and 707 yards on 190 carries last year.

Jackson was also a tremendous pass catcher out of the backfield during his run as one of the NFL's elite, having caught

90 balls for 806 yards and three touchdowns during the 2006 season.

He played for Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels in 2011 when McDaniels was the OC in St. Louis and rushed for 1,145 yards on 260 carries.

The Patriots prefer backs with sure pass-catching hands as Shane Vereen played a huge role down the stretch of last season and Dion Lewis got plenty of looks from Tom Brady earlier this season before going down with an injury.

The 6-foot-2, 240-pound Jackson is now 32 years old.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Elizabeth M. Messenger to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., dated June 10, 2003 and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 31824, Page 66, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP dated December 23, 2010 and recorded with said registry on December 30, 2010 at Book 47407 Page 129 and by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A., Successor by Merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP dated September 20, 2011 and recorded with said registry on October 3, 2011 at Book 48461 Page 262 and by assignment from Bank of America, N.A. to Green Tree Servicing LLC dated June 6, 2013 and recorded with said registry on August 2, 2013 at Book 51865 Page 22, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 p.m. on January 4, 2016, on the mortgaged premises located at 35 Rosemont Street, Unit 1, 35 Rosemont Street Condominium, Dorchester (Boston), Suffolk County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT:

Unit 1 (unit) of the condominium known as Rosemont Street Condominium, Dorchester, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, a condominium established by the pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, by Master Deed dated September 6, 2001, recorded with Suffolk County Registry of Deeds on September 6, 2001, in Book 27002, Page 263, which unit is shown on floor plans of the building recorded simultaneously with said Master Deed and on the copy of the portion of said plans, to which affixed the verified statement of a registered architect in the form required by Section 9 of said Chapter 183A. Property Address 35 Rosemont Street, Dorchester, MA 02122. For title reference see Master Deed recorded in Book 27002, Page 247.

For mortgagee's title see deed recorded with Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 27332, Page 343.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

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Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

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TRUST CITATION

Docket No. SU37838

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

In the matter of: Trust under Will of Henry Farnam

Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street, Boston, MA 02114

(617) 788-8300

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by: **Linda S Dalby of Boston MA** requesting that the Court Approve the Trustee's resignation and also Appoint a successor Trustee to serve without sureties on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 01/07/2016.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Joan P Armstrong, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 02, 2015

[Signature]

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Aries Don't divulge secrets or get involved in matters that could jeopardize your chance to advance. Evaluate what you want to change.



Taurus Make plans to do something with friends. Socializing with people who can influence your professional future will be in your best interest.



Gemini Don't feel that you have to accommodate everyone. Do what you can, but don't let your emotional or physical wellness suffer.



Cancer You'll come up with some cost-effective ideas that will improve your surroundings. Plan a trip that will take you down memory lane.



Leo You've got what it takes to get things done. Don't stop or wait for others to catch up. Set your sights on your destination and don't stop.



Virgo You'll be pulled in different directions. Don't give in to peer pressure or get involved with people who have bad habits. Avoid indulgence.



Libra You can chase your dream if you stop waiting for things to come to you. Line up interviews for the new year or update your resume.



Scorpio You'll shine at any event or meeting you take part in, and will impress someone who has more to offer than you realize.



Sagittarius Initiate and welcome change in your personal life. Participate in activities that are adventurous and challenging.



Capricorn Conversations, emails and people you encounter while traveling or doing research will all contribute to your success.



Aquarius Consider what you have been doing and what you want to do with your life. Start to make the changes that bring you happiness.



Pisces Don't give in to emotional manipulation. Overreacting, indulgence and taking on too much will hold you back. **EUGENIA LAST**

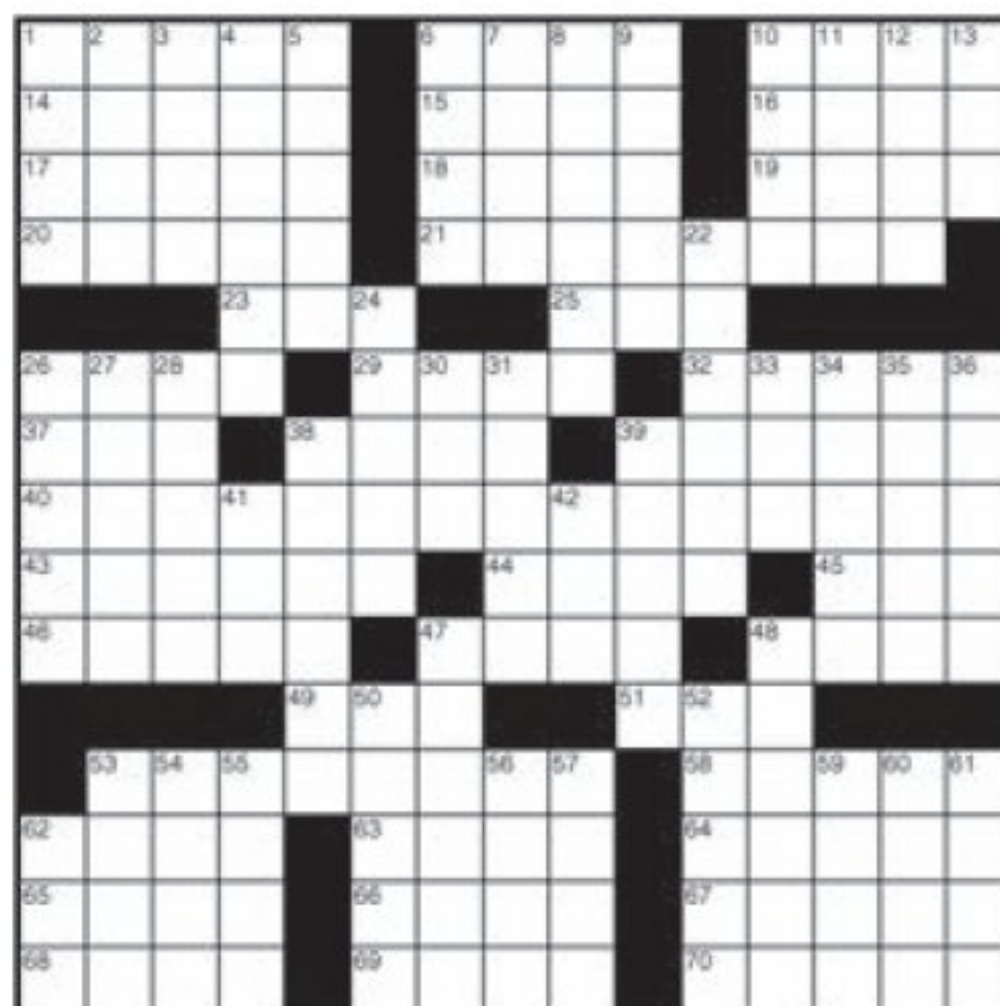
Across

- 1 Dignity of manner
6 Draw with a laser
10 Oasis feature
14 Again and again
15 Bok —
16 Overpraise
17 Golfer Sam —
18 Cause to split
19 Handel contemporary
20 Upper body
21 Pries open
23 Startled cries
25 Kubrick's computer
26 Memo abbr.
29 Guard animals of ancient Egypt
32 Luau, for one
37 Friend, slangily
38 Brandish
39 Czech capital
40 Our ancestors (hyph.)
43 Most of the planet
44 Piped up
45 After taxes
46 Changed decor
47 Intuit
48 Averages
49 NASA counterpart
51 Sauce in a wok
53 Dagwood specialty
58 Phoenician port
62 Knock — — loop
63 Purina rival
64 Bygone rulers

- 65 Cousin of PDQ
66 Very, informally
67 Frat-party wear
68 Tree trunk
69 Inventory wd.
70 Blow, as a horse

Down

- 1 Racetrack start
2 Point — — return
3 Anatomical passage
4 Add herbs
5 Set up a fund
6 Neutral shade
7 After that
8 Seashells
9 Nine-headed monster
10 Come again?
11 Rochester's Jane
12 RN assistants
13 Poe's "Annabel —"
22 Lord Tennyson
24 Duelers' pride
26 More than dislike
27 Cease-fire
28 Slightly tinted
30 Dow Jones fig.
31 Kid



- 33 Flair for music
34 Booster rocket
35 More certain
36 Dry runs
38 Traveled along
39 Collins and Donahue
41 Mai — (rum drink)

- 42 — kwon do
47 Conked out
48 Monty —
50 Locusts aplenty
52 Sends packing
53 Fair (hyph.)
54 Shrunken sea

- 55 Where hackles rise
56 Audit aces
57 Mine, actually
59 Shakespeare heavy
60 Blacken with heat
61 Sec'y
62 Marvy

For crossword answers, go to metro.us/crossword-answers



metro.us/sudoku

easy

			9		1	8		3
		8			3	4		1
				5				7
		6					8	9
		9	2	3	7	1		
1	7					2		
2				9				
8		1	3			9		
4		5	1		2			

hard

				5				8
8		6	2				4	3
	5		4			1	6	
			5	2		6		
			6		4			
		2		1	3			
	2	5			8		7	
7	1				5	3		6
4				6				

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 2325008 & ★ 2261581.



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 Shown: new Austin.
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 2383985.



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 By Charter Club.
 Polyester.
 ★ WebID
 2465005.



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